

Fwd: Protest Update - Thursday Feb 10

From: "Astravas, Zita" </o=pco-pmo-bnet/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=0a2e428046b64c50aa0bb73227a788c0-z_astravas">
To: "Williams, Caroline" <caroline.williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 03:36:19 +0000

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded

Initial readout of opposition leaders call below. please let me know if there are any questions.

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2022-02-10 – Opposition leaders briefing – Convoy

CB – Candice Bergen

JS – Jagmeet Singh

YFB – Yves Francois Blanchet

EM – Elizabeth May

BB – Bill Blair

PM – PM JT

MM – Marco Mendicino

NSIA – Jody Thomas

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PM: Thank you for being with us tonight, I want to give you an update on where we are on blockade. NSIA is on with us, as well as PS minister and EP minister to give quick updates, then into Q&A.

One of the things I will ask – some things not in public domain, some operationally sensitive, so please be discreet, use judgement in terms of how we move forward on this

Earlier tonight, convened IRG. Impact has been felt across the country, SW Ontario and in AB. With new ones it is obvious this is a significant threat to wellbeing, economy, we need to see them end very soon. Appreciate all of you to call on all your MPs to call for them to end, all parliamentarians to speak with one voice.

RCMP working with local police and Ontario provincial police to ensure poj have resources they need to end blockades. Working well together, federal government there with whatever resources need.

Spoke with Ford, assure OPP engaging to bring an end to this situation. There to support to finish as quickly as possible.

NSIA: thank you. Good evening. High level review of geographical situation, efforts being looked at. Ottawa remains complex. 7 groups are core organizers. Group of loosely affiliate people, majority and criminal elements. Police are beginning their law enforcement activity. Concerned about children, vulnerable people in trucks in downtown. Engage child welfare. Increase fines, arrests, tickets, investigations underway. Asks for 1700 – integrated planning teams, fewer are required to execute. Law enforcement activities are in line with negotiations with organizers to ensure there's no violence, ensure departure by choice, and to try and see what can be done to allow them to be heard but to move on without police action. It will be taken when determined required.

Social media being monitored, so many events being organized that way. Slow roll to airport, Sussex, patrolling in front of schools. Local police and OPP trying to hold off those events, protect areas where they'll be. Ottawa remains complex. Should not anticipate significant change over next 2-3 days.

Coutts: MTO has suggested other areas where the convoy could locate. Emotional and volatile group. Significant law enforcement in the area. Trying to negotiate, move traffic, hoping to avoid significant action.

MB – Emerson, 1.5km blockade. Allowing livestock to move. Combo of enforcement and negotiation to quell, dissipate.

ON – most action. Ambassador bridge. One arrest for dangerous driving. Mostly SUVs, personal cars, local community people who've blocked street toward the POE. All 3 levels working together on this, 4-5 police agencies integrated. Behaviour more aggressive when tow trucks on scene. Working with US federal, state, municipal, communication is good. Evaluating action that could be taken.

Bluewater- rolling convoys in Sarnia. Threatened to block via – hasn't happened yet.

NB/NS – emergencies act – allows confiscation of property – slow rolls,

NWT- rumours of a blockade that would impede main supply route

BC – unconfirmed reporting of 24 convoys for next 2-3 days.

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No terrorist threats. Emboldened by what happened in Ottawa, became more sophisticated.

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Questions about jurisdiction are constant – this is not a question or a concern or issue at the operational level. In many locations 3-4 police forces are working hand in glove in the same team commanded by one of them to affect police action required.

MM: thank you, good evening everyone, that was a good update so quickly. From the perspective of the federal government we're trying to provide resources to law enforcement, additional Mounties in Ottawa, Windsor, reinforcements in Coutts, staying in close touch with local leadership and provincial partners. Good cooperation between RCMP/local/provincial colleagues.

In addition to enforcement, looking at other transportation options. Looking to levy stiff fines for those who are breaking HTA laws, consequences for those breaking the law when it comes to licenses, insurance and incorporation. Convoys with provincial counterparts.

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BB: acknowledge the protest in Ottawa have been noisy, difficult, also wanted to share that we are being increasingly concerned for evolution in tactics. Targeting critical public safety infrastructure, depriving people of Ottawa of public safety infrastructure. Highway blockades in Windsor, Coutts, impact on critical infrastructure in Canada – trade manufacturing supply chains delivery of goods and services, factories. For example in Ontario 6 major auto factories had to be shut down. That has resulted in thousands of workers being idled, disruption to manufacturing process. Essential part of those processes. Impact is far more significant than a disruption at an intersection.

Come from a policing background, what police are sharing with us. Their priority is to maintain public safety, working to bring about a peaceful resolution, they will always have a proportional/measured response, rely heavily on negotiation. We do not direct them in their operations, working with all orders of government to ensure they have support and resources they need. Challenges of convening 3 orders at the table. Intermediary between province, municipal and federal. Ensuring resources are available. Working seamlessly and collaboratively together. Continue to work with them to ensure they have support they need.

Frustration from Canadians who want enforcement, they are aware, working to bring a peaceful resolution.

Questions?

CB: thanks. Wondering if there's anything you can share with us, any practical steps you're taking, not logistically or administrative, mediation to bring a peaceful resolution and to do it quickly. Canadians are feeling like what's the plan, what's happening. What are you able to share with us?

PM: lets take questions from everyone and answer.

YFB: thank you, this is enlightening, main preoccupation is to contain, peaceful resolution that means there's a significant risk that this might evolve to appoint where it won't resolve peacefully. I understand that there is a negotiation that could mean we provide them with a space where they could say what they want to say, remove themselves from hot spots, doubtful of that initiative, but should be discussed. I also understand we fear escalation and means they use through what appears to be a strong organization, structured organization, can we face that? When OPS say they need 1800 people, they'd need to be on the ground. Where would they come from? Doesn't seem like it's being close to its end. I don't hear what appears to be an exit to this crisis.

JS: I have questions around the difference between influence and interference on financial funding. Ontario injunction for Ontario, could we do that on a national level to stop the flow of national funds to come in on this convoy. Other considerations for what additional measures that we're expecting could need to be taken if current approach doesn't work, escalation in terms of remove protesters, particularly on bridge, border crossings.

EM: thanks for including me as a parliamentary leader. Very concerned by the fact that the people have previous links within rcmp, PROTECTIVE services, operational sense of what might happen, anticipate and thwart. Work that links are tracked. occurs to me that reference to criminal elements is one I want to drill into. Some are well meaning, what do we mean? Any operational

prospect of isolating and removing the most dangerous of the actors. Criminal elements or those sufficiently radicalized. Worst elements is that it's telegenic, being fed to right wing media around the world. Those are comments and questions, thank you.

NSIA: start with influence/interference = interference is a direct action to change the course, influence is generally trying to use sentiment social media and funding to change views **s.38**

s.38 Moving foreign funds in small values is not a criminal offence. Do need to look at crowd sourcing, don't have legislation that addresses this, looking at it. Individual people. Social media providers and funding sources were removing what they knew to be spurious donations, more offensive and seditious commentary on social media **s.38**

Containment and peaceful resolution, Blair can speak to that, intent is always an escalation of tactics and force. Prepared to far extreme to take tactical police action that could be required. Question about radicalized elements – opposite is the plan, remove people innocently in this, there for the wrong reasons, to try and remove those that are other than hardened extremist then deal with them on more specific police action,

MM: prosecution and enforcement of any contributions – evidence that would be intentionally used, we have strong laws to lay those charges. That would be independent of us.

BB: order sought by police in Ontario, discussions with our AG, applaud ON move, useful, informed discussions with provincial counterparts, think it's important. Comment – proportionality – people won't respond with force if not faced with force. I know that's frustrating, but I think to Ms. Bergen's point, within any demonstration, always a big portion that aren't hardcore, discovered they stay too long and want to leave. For the hardcore groups deal with them when we have to, the more strong minded in those things tends to take comfort in a larger crowd. Well trained, will do the job, encouraged that RMCP and OPP have come to aid of OPS working well together. I think overwhelming, dedicated patriots and have a profound sense of duty. Recruit from human race, people with different opinions. I have a great deal of confidence in police services that they would not be unduly influenced. Sells their knowledge and services is the issue. Fine men and women working to keep us safe, wouldn't be judged by inappropriate actions of the few.

PMJT: what we're doing – making sure that everyone is kept safe, RCMP supplying support needed on the ground, making sure people understand they've been heard but it's time to go home, decrease the many people who are there and want to get back home. Part of the plan – stiffer penalties, losing licenses, banned from international travel, consequences for having been a part of this blockade will tell people it's time to go home. YF you mentioned more officers for Ottawa, when RCMP/OPP leaned in, determined there was not that scale of need, helping OPS to build a plan that will be executed to move forward in a responsible and safe way. Next steps, we're preparing for the worst and hoping for the best, making sure there's a progression, that police have the tools necessary every step of the way, continuing to look at authorities and various tools that could be used, hopeful there are enough tools under current authorities and existing structures. In general, going to continue to make sure Canadians understand it is always allowed to express their opinions, protest in peaceful and lawful ways, laws need to be followed when it comes to disagreeing.

YFB: 3 more questions. Can we do this regularly. Police forces not going to answer unless provoked- present situation could last a very long time. Numbers – how many radicalized people within few hundred people in front of parliament.

NSIA: not sitting and watching, levels of escalation and proportionality. If no way they'll leave, nothing they ask for, wouldn't be allowed to stand, negotiations thus far about health and safety. As they've assessed who these people are, build tactical plans, no intent to stay indefinitely.

BB: on proportionality, no proportional to conduct, activities, consequences of their actions. Idling thousands of worker, that raises significantly the urgency of police intervention, expectation hat they'll resolve peacefully. Impact is really quite significant. Responsibility to protect people.

MM: convention that is well established is that law enforcement is last resort. Police work on the ground is critically important, allows us to highlight that it's important parliamentarians encourage everyone to go home.

PM: always whenever we've spoken we've offered briefings, always happy to offer on important issues, in important moments. Happy to connect directly.

EM: the more we stand together the better we are, we're Canadians.

PM: thank you everyone. Talk again soon.

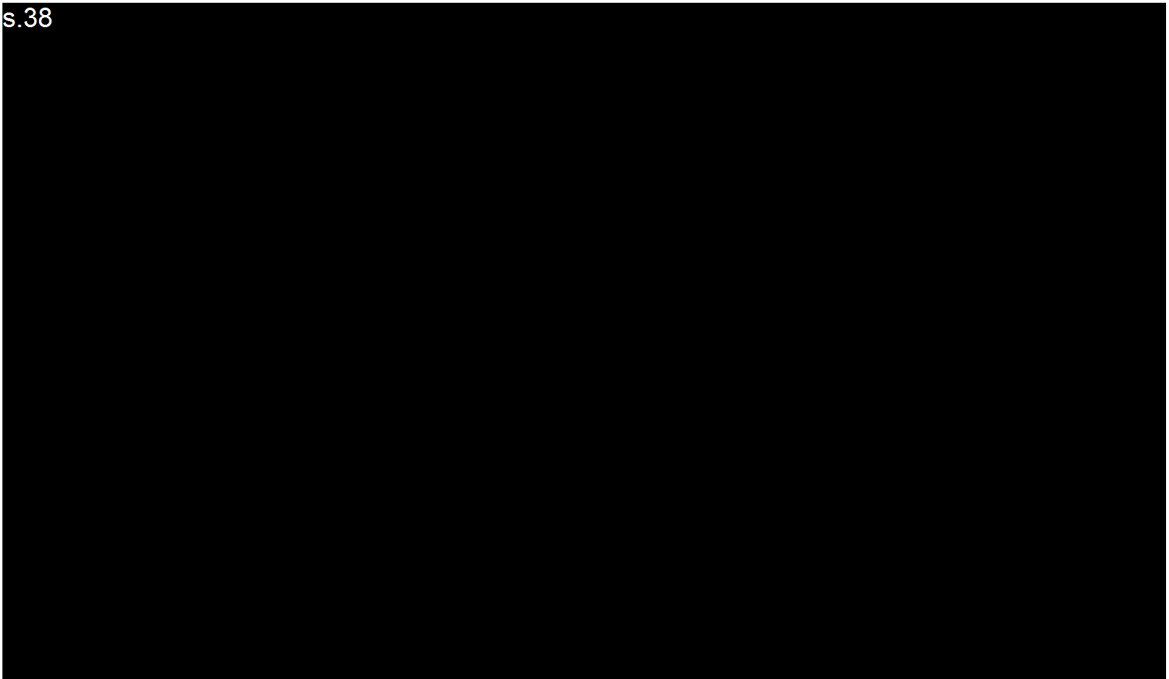
Mary-Liz Power (she/her/elle)

Issues Advisor | Conseillère en gestion des enjeux

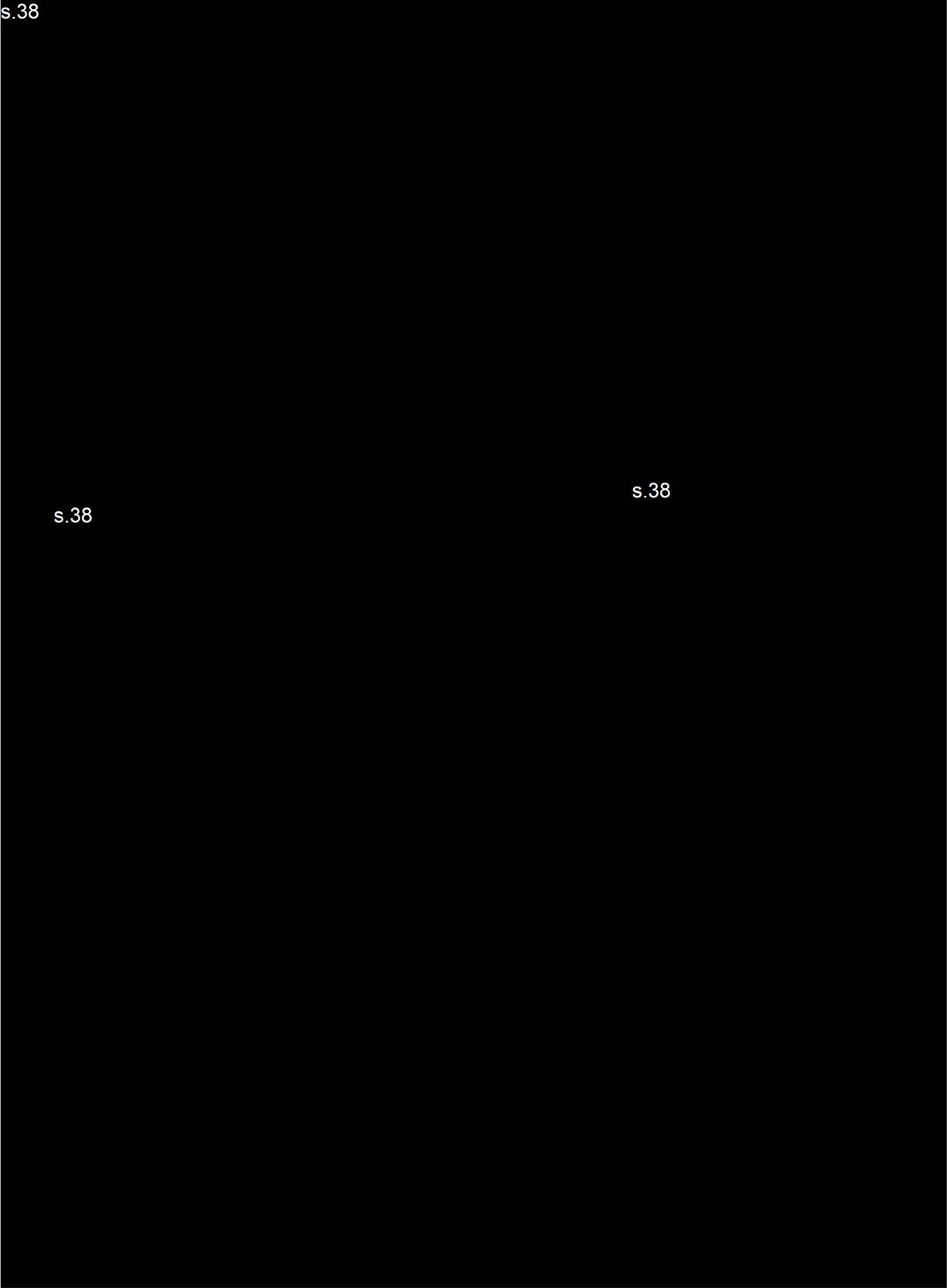
Office of the Prime Minister | Cabinet du premier ministre

Irrelevant

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Innes/Michigan call

The bulk of the call revolves around the Gordie Howe Bridge project as expected.

He did however express that the Governor was very concerned about the situation on the Ambassador Bridge. I told him we were also very concerned about the blockade, and that resolving the blockade at the bridge and other border crossings was a priority for the GOC.

He asked if we had a plan to take an active role in enforcement. I didn't answer directly but noted the police of jurisdiction and distinction currently between the bridge itself and the lands adjacent to the bridge. I reiterated that resolving the blockade was a top priority for us.

He thanked me for the call and said this reinforces the importance of having another international bridge (which we are working on together through the new project).

From: Power, Mary-Liz

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:04 AM

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Subject: Protest Update - Thursday Feb 10

TODAY

- Min Mendicino call with DHS ,
- Jamie Innes call with CoS to governor of Michigan (Standing Call)
- PM calls to stakeholders
- PM leader's round QP
- Ministerial meeting with PM (10am)
- Ministerial meeting (tbc 1pm)

- Heads up from the President of the Canadian Pork Producers Association in relation to a blockade taking place at the Emerson/Pembina border tomorrow.
 - o major crossing for livestock
- Tracking TC notice of potential Sarnia train tracks blockade.

Information shared yesterday by Vance Badewey:

- Ron Rienas, GM of Peace Bridge, has forwarded intel to Eric Ellwood, Staff Sergeant Niagara Regional Police Service (Feb 8)
 - o GM of Peace Bridge asked for a call with OPP.
- **INTEL:** Potential blockade/protest at the Fort Erie Peace Bridge planned for Saturday, Feb. 12
 - o Meeting point at Stoney Creek's Costco parking lot at 7:30am
 - o Meetings point at Husky Truck Stop (615 York Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake) at 9:00am
- Wayne Redekop, Mayor of Fort Erie, asked Eric Ellwood for coordination and planning with Niagara Police, OPP, RCMP and Peace Bridge Authority (Feb. 9)
 - o Mayor is referring to the possibility of trucks obstructing the Peace Bridge
 - o Eric replies that they are planning for potential demonstrations, but he is not certain that this would impact the actual town
- OPP seems to have responded to a letter sent from Ron Rienas (Feb. 9)
 - o Ron Rienas confirms the Niagara Police are now more engaged and responsive (Feb. 9)

UPDATE #140 - Ottawa

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- **There is a light number of people all along Wellington and surrounding streets.**
- **Vehicles are parked in the streets all around the precinct.**

View of Parliament Hill:

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View of Wellington/Metcalf:



View of Wellington / Elgin:



Mary-Liz Power (she/her/elle)
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Irrelevant